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INQUIRE=DOC19D
ITEM NO=00005957
ENVELOPE
CDSN = LGX376 MCN = 92234/29761 TOR = 922341723
RTTSZYUW RUEKJCS5642 2341724-SSSS--RUEALGX.
ZNY SSSSS
HEADER
R 211724Z AUG 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GM
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RU' 'PGA/12 AF BERGSTROM AFB TX//IN//
R ,ACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUANJTF/CJTF FOUR
RUWANGC/CJTF FIVE//J20//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUWANTX/CJTF SIX
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 211420Z AUG 92
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUWMEGA/USCINCSO HOWARD AFB PM//SCJ3-DDD//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCJ2-O//
INFO RUEHC/SECST TE WASHDC//INM-LEVINSKI// 2374
RUWTNBA/SSC CORPUS CHRISTI TX//DIR,SSC/DIR,CNAC//
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC//CNC//
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//CD-JIC/CD-JIC-TS//
RUEDEEA/COGARD COMLANTAREA NEW YORK NY//AI//
RUEBMRA/USCUSTOMS WASHDC 0452
RUEAD'IW/DIRONDCP WASHDC
RUEHN\/DEAHQS WASHDC//OC/OF/AO/OIC/OISL//
BT
CONTROLS
S E C R E T LA PAZ 013417

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E. O. 12356:DECL: OADR
BODY
TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJECT: AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT TO OPERATION GHOST ZONE (U)

ENTIRE TEXT SECRET

GENERAL JOULWAN: APPRECIATED YOUR TELEPHONE CALL OF 18

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IS/FPC/CDR Date: 5/28/95
[X] RELEASE [X] DECLASSIFY
[ ] EXCISE [ ] DECLASSIFY IN PART
[ ] DENY
[ ] DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
TS authority to:
( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C OADR
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR

AUG 92 CONCERNING FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS OF THE USCS P-3'S. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE P-3 DEPLOYMENTS TO SUPPORT OPERATION GHOST ZONE MAY BE IN JEOPARDY BASED ON YOUR HEADQUARTERS' PERCEPTION THAT WE HAVE NOT RECENTLY CAUGHT ANY NARCOTRAFFICKER AIRCRAFT. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT TODAY'S SCHEDULED P-3 DEPLOYMENT DID NOT MATERIALIZE IN ASUNCION. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS, SINCE PRIOR SOUTHCOM ASSURANCES GUARANTEED THAT SUPPORT TO GHOST ZONE WOULD NOT DECLINE DURING SJ IV. I AM ALSO TOLD THAT A SIMILAR PROMISE WAS MADE TO ONDCP AND DEPT OF STATE, INM, THAT CONTINUED AIR SURVEILLANCE COVERAGE OF GHOST ZONE WAS A PRIORITY.

AS YOU KNOW, THE GZ CONCEPT WAS DESIGNED TO APPLY
-
MAXIMUM SUSTAINED FRESSURE ON THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST COCA GROWING REGION, THE CHAPARE. THE FACT THAT TRAFFICKERS DARED NOT ENTER THE CHAPARE BY AIR DURING THE P-3'S LAST TWO DEPLOYMENTS ATTESTS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MOST VITAL PART OF OUR STRATEGY. OF NOTE, OUR INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT THE TRAFFICKERS ARE PREPARING TO TEST OUR ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THE CHAPARE VALLEY. TO REMOVE THIS CRITICAL INGREDIENT OF OUR COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAM AT THIS TIME WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT OPERATION GHOST ZONE'S SUCCESS.

THEREFORE, THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME TO PULL THE USCS P-3 SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT. MOVING COCAINE BASE USING MEANS OTHER THAN AIR TRANSPORTATION HAS INCREASED THE PRODUCTION COST. PULLING THE P-3 NOW WILL LIKELY RESULT IN THE TRAFFICKERS RESUMING AIR OPERATIONS. WITHOUT THE AERIAL ENFORCEMENT POTENTIAL OF THE P-3, AIR TRANSPORT COSTS WILL GO DOWN, COCAINE PRODUCT COST WILL BE REDUCED, PROFITABILITY WILL GO BACK UP AND OUR COUNTER-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN OPERATION GHOST ZONE WILL SUFFER.

IN SUMMATION, GHOST ZONE IS IN THE MAINTENANCE STAGE; AND WHILE THE TRAFFICKERS ARE REELING FROM THE CURRENT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, WE HAVE REACHED A CRITICALLY SENSITIVE POINT IN THE OPERATION, WHICH WE CAN ILL AFFORD TO JEOPARDIZE. WE MUST MAINTAIN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE PRESSURE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CULTIVATION OF COCA LEAF AND THE TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE BASE AND COCAINE HCL SUFFICIENTLY UNPROFITABLE ENOUGH FOR THE TRAFFICKERS AND CAMPESINOS TO SEEK OTHER MEANS OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

PLEASE RECONFIRM YOUR INTENTIONS CONCERNING THE USCS P-3'S IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION GHOST ZONE. AS I

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UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCEPT, THE CURRENT DEPLOYMENT TO COMMENCE TODAY, 19 AUG 1992, IS CANCELLED. ALL FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS SCHEDULED FOR SEP 92 THROUGH JAN 93 WILL BE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED AND REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE FUTURE OF GHOST ZONE COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS WILL BE IN JEOPARDY.

ADMIN
DECLAS:OADR
BOWERS
BT

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